



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,969	11/06/2001	Soubhi Abdulkarim	42390P12804	2765

45459 7590 05/08/2006

GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC
C/O PORTFOLIO IP
P. O. BOX 52050
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

CHEN, TSE W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2116

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/005,969

Applicant(s)

ABDULKARIM, SOUBHI

Examiner

Tse Chen

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8,11-14,17-20 and 23-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8,11-14,17-20 and 23-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 16, 2006 has been entered.

2. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 17-20, 23-29 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta et al., U.S. Patent 6393572, hereinafter Datta, in view of Gregorian et al., U.S. Patent 6452425, hereinafter Gregorian.

5. In re claim 1, Datta discloses a system [fig.1] comprising:

- A processing system [master codec 121] comprising memory [col.2, ll.25-39; inherently, storing data requires a memory in the broadest interpretation].
- A communication adapter [slave codec 122] adapted to be coupled to a transmission medium [lines 131-134, 140-141].
- Wherein the processing system further comprises:

Art Unit: 2116

- Logic [command processor 230] to receive a sleep message [sleep command] from a power management system [digital controller 110] [col.1.57 – col.2, 1.27; sleep command in frame transmitted by 110].
 - Logic [sleep circuit 290] to place the communication adapter in a sleep state [power down sleep mode] in response to the sleep message [col.2, ll.25-51; 121 ceases bit_clk 131 to 122].
 - Logic [290, 390 similar] to selectively lower a speed of a clock signal from a first clock speed [bit_clk 131] to a second clock speed [ceased] based on the sleep message [col.2, ll.25-51; col.4, 1.51 – col.5, 1.17; clock speed lowered to zero based on sleep command].
 - Said communication adapter is adapted to save data local to said communication adapter in said memory prior to transitioning to said sleep state [col.2, ll.25-39].
6. Datta did not discuss different protocols.
7. Gregorian discloses a system [col.1, ll.4-17] for selectively lowering the speed of the clock from a first clock speed [e.g., F1] to a second speed [e.g., F2], wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter [semiconductor chip] to communicate with a transmission medium [lines for transmitters and receivers] according to a first communication protocol having a first data transmission rate [e.g., E3] and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol having a second data transmission rate [e.g., DS3] [fig.1,3,5; col.1, ll.16-17; col.2, 1.42 – col.3, 1.25; col.3, 1.66 – col.4, 1.8; setup configuration that selectively lowers the speed of the clock to associated protocol].

Art Unit: 2116

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Datta and Gregorian before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Datta to include the teachings taught by Gregorian, in order to obtain the processing system that comprises logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock from a first clock speed to a second speed, wherein the first clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with a transmission medium according to a first communication protocol and the second clock speed controls the communication adapter to communicate with the transmission medium according to a second communication protocol. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a combination as it provides a way to determine the associated protocol for a particular frequency in a communication environment [Gregorian: col.1, ll.4-54].

9. In re claim 8, Datta and Gregroian disclose each and every limitation as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Datta and Gregorian disclose the system; therefore, Datta and Gregorian disclose an article comprising a storage medium comprising machine-readable instructions [software, firmware, etc.] stored thereon [col.6, ll.6-31] for operating the system.

10. In re claims 14 and 20, Datta and Gregroian disclose each and every limitation as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Datta and Gregorian disclose the system; therefore, Datta and Gregorian disclose the method and means thereof for operating the system.

11. As to claim 26, Datta discloses the communication adapter that is adapted to retrieve the local data saved in said memory when the communication adapter resumes to a full power state [col.2, ll.25-39].

12. As to claim 27, Datta discloses the storage medium that comprises machine readable instructions stored thereon for retrieving the data local to said communication adapter saved in

Art Unit: 2116

the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state [col.2, ll.25-39; col.6, ll.6-31].

13. As to claim 28, Datta discloses the method that comprises retrieving the data local to the communication adapter saved in the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state [col.2, ll.25-39].

14. As to claim 29, Datta discloses the apparatus comprising means for retrieving the data local to the communication adapter saved in the system memory upon the communication adapter resuming a full power state [col.2, ll.25-39].

15. Claims 4-5, 11-12, 17-18, 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta and Gregorian as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huang et al., U.S. Patent 6407595, hereinafter Huang.

16. In re claims 4, 11, 17 and 23, Datta and Gregorian disclose each and every limitation of the claim as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Datta and Gregorian did not discuss the details of responding to the sleep message.

17. Huang discloses a system [col.1, ll.4-27] that comprises:

- Logic to determine the speed of the clock signal [frequency F] in response to a message [load signal L; associated with active/sleep] [fig.1, 4, 7; col.5, l.15 – col.6, l.12; col.4, ll.27-61; checks F in response to L for appropriate adjustment].
- Logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock signal [decrease throttling value R to reduce F] if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed [FL] [fig.1; col.4, ll.51-61].

Art Unit: 2116

18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Huang, Datta and Gregorian before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Datta and Gregorian to include the teachings taught by Huang, in order to obtain the processing system that comprises logic to determine the speed of the clock signal in response to the sleep message and logic to selectively lower the speed of the clock signal if the speed of the clock signal exceeds a predetermined clock speed. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a combination as it provides a way to facilitate communication [Datta: col.1, l.5 – col.2, l.5; Gregorian: col.1, ll.4-54] and control power consumption [Datta: col.2, ll.25-39; Huang: col.1, ll.10-27] in digital systems.

19. As to claims 5, 12, 18 and 24, Gregorian discloses an article [col.1, ll.4-17] for:

- Logic to determine a first communication protocol [e.g., E3; protocol related to speed] being used by the communication adapter [semiconductor chip] [fig.1,3,5; col.2, l.42 – col.3, l.25; col.3, l.66 – col.4, l.8; determines the protocol via speed].
- Logic to selectively command the communication adapter to use a second communication protocol [e.g., DS3] if a data rate or clock signal frequency [e.g., F2] associated with the first communication protocol exceeds a threshold [threshold 1] [fig.1,3,5; col.2, l.42 – col.3, l.25; col.3, l.66 – col.4, l.8; setup that selectively configures the speed of the clock with associated protocol after determining where frequency lies in relation to threshold].

20. Huang discloses an article [col.1, ll.4-27] for:

Art Unit: 2116

- Logic to determine a first speed [frequency F] being used by the communication adapter [graphics chip] in response to a message [load signal L] [fig.4, 7; col.5, l.15 – col.6, l.12; col.4, ll.27-61; checks F in response to L for appropriate adjustment].
- Logic to selectively command the communication adapter to use a second speed [throttled F] if a data rate or clock signal frequency [F] exceeds a threshold [FL] [col.4, ll.51-61].

21. Claims 6, 13, 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta and Gregorian as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Foster, U.S. Patent 6026494.

22. Datta and Gregorian disclose each and every limitation of the claim as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Datta and Gregorian did not discuss placing the communication adapter in an auto-sensing state in response to a resume message.

23. Foster discloses a system [col.1, ll.6-14] for placing a communication adapter [fig.2; Ethernet transceiver] in an auto-sensing [auto-negotiate] state in response to a resume message [power up after timer2 expires] [col.5, ll.32-62].

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Foster, Datta and Gregorian before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Datta and Gregorian to include the teachings taught by Foster, in order to obtain the processing system that comprises logic to place the communication adapter in an auto-select state in response to a resume message. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a combination as it provides a way to control power consumption in a communication system [Foster: col.1, ll.6-14].

Art Unit: 2116

25. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta and Gregorian as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Greszczuk et al., U.S. Patent 6445730, hereinafter Greszczuk.

26. Datta and Gregorian disclose each and every limitation of the claim as discussed above in reference to claim 1. Datta and Gregorian did not discuss details of the interconnection between the communication adapter and processing system.

27. Greszczuk discloses a system [col.3, ll.41-60] that comprises a data bus [common telephone line] coupled between the communication adapter [CO transceiver] and the processing system [CPE transceiver], and wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command [inherently, some logic in the broadest interpretation is necessary to communicate] on the data bus addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a power state in response to a sleep message [power down command] [col.6, l.12 – col.7, l.13].

28. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Datta, Gregorian, and Greszczuk before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the teachings of Datta and Gregorian to include the teachings taught by Greszczuk, in order to obtain the system that comprises a data bus coupled between the communication adapter and the processing system, and wherein the processing system further comprises logic to selectively initiate a write command on the data bus addressed to the communication adapter specifying a change in one of a clock signal frequency and a communication protocol in response to the sleep message. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such a combination

Art Unit: 2116

as it provides a way to rapidly switch from a sleep mode to a full-on condition [Greszczuk: col.3, ll.10-20].

Response to Arguments

29. Applicant's arguments filed February 16, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

30. Applicant alleges that "the combined teachings of [Gregorian and Datta] would not yield a result that reads on Applicants' invention". Examiner disagrees and submits that one of ordinary skill in the art could alter the clock rate associated with the sleep state in Datta to any other clock rate suitable for the targeted system [different systems may have different clock rates associated with a sleep state] as Datta did not explicitly teach against such modifications.

31. As such, Applicant's arguments are deemed not persuasive and the rejections are respectfully maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tse Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2116

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tse Chen
May 1, 2006


LYNNE H. BROWNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100